[Mr. Matthew Murikkan.]

(ii) that the cultivation of over 4000 acres of *punja* lands will suffer seriously on account of the rush of salt water if the lock is not completed at once; and

(*b*) whether they will ascertain the cause for the delay ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) Yes.

(ii) A bund is generally put up to avoid this damage.

(*b*) There does not appear to be any undue delay. However, this is being enquired into.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With reference to part (ii) sub-division (*a*) will the Government be pleased to tell me whether they know that the bund arrangement costs a good deal of hardship and inconvenience to those who come up the canal in the boats ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information is noted.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to tell me the date on which the contract was agreed upon for the construction of this lock ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The work is at present going on.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): I am asking the date on which the contract was agreed upon ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Results of the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks in other countries.

198. **MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN** (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are not aware :

(*a*) that the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks has led to unprecedented agricultural prosperity in many countries; and

(*b*) that, in all the countries wherein Land Mortgage Banks have been started, it is the respective Governments that have taken the initiative in the matter ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The Government are not aware that the establishment of Land Mortgage Banks has led to unprecedented agricultural prosperity in many countries.

(*b*) The Government are not aware that in all countries where Land Mortgage Banks have been started it was the respective Governments that took the initiative in the matter.

Auction of Puyamkutti in the Kuttamangalam Pakuthi.

199. **MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN** (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many years it is since they have decided to disafforest and sell by auction the area known as *Puyamkutti* in the Kuttamangalam pakuthi of the Muvattupuzha taluk; and

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